

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~S~~surgical band (1) designed to be implanted in the body of a patient around a biological organ or organs, consisting of a pouch or a tube for altering the flow area of said organ when it is clamped by the band, said band (1) ~~consisting of~~comprising:

~~_____~~ a flexible strip (2) designed to be substantially closed at its two ends (3, 4) in order to form a closed loop; said strip (2) comprising an annular compression chamber (7) designed to contain a filling fluid; said chamber (7) being defined, ~~on the one hand~~, by an internal wall (8A) designed to be in contact with the organ being clamped and, ~~on the other hand~~, a dorsal wall, (8B);

~~_____ characterized in that~~wherein said dorsal wall consists of a bead having an inner face (12) situated opposite the chamber (7), said inner face (12) ~~being provided with~~has at least one longitudinal slot (13) for influencing the deformation of the internal wall (8A) with a view to limiting the presence of surface irregularities in the area of the internal wall (8A), when the strip (2) forms a closed loop.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~B~~band (1) of ~~e~~Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the internal wall (8A) ~~consists of~~comprises a membrane.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~B~~band (1) ~~as claimed in~~ ~~of~~ ~~e~~Claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the chamber (7) is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing said filling fluid.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~B~~band ~~as claimed in~~ ~~one~~ of ~~e~~Claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bead has a homogeneous property and ~~in that~~ the longitudinal slot (13) is arranged entirely within the bead.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~B~~band (1) ~~as claimed in~~ ~~one~~ of ~~e~~Claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the internal wall (8A) ~~is made of~~comprises a first elastomer material, ~~while and~~ the dorsal wall (8B) ~~is made of~~comprises a second elastomer material.

6. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) of eClaim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said first and second materials are identical.

7. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) of eClaim 6, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said first and second materials have substantially identical hardness levels.

8. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 1 to 7, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the internal wall (8A) is made integral with the dorsal wall (8B).

9. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 1 to 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the inner face (42) of the bead is ~~provided with~~has a single longitudinal slot (13) positioned substantially at the center of said face.

10. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 1 to 9, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the longitudinal slot (13) has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross section.

11. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) ~~as claimed in one of e~~Claims 1 to 10, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the strip (2) is in the form of a solid tube having a substantially elliptical cross section, said tube being hollowed out so as to form both the chamber (7) and the longitudinal slot (13), said chamber (7) and slot (13) communicating in order to form a single cavity (7, 13) whose cross-sectional shape substantially resembles that of a mushroom whose stem is formed by the slot (13), while the cap is formed by the chamber (7).

12. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) of eClaim 11, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the cross section of the chamber (7) has an overall quarter-like appearance.

13. (Currently Amended) The Bband (1) of eClaim 11, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the cross section of the chamber (7) has an overall crescent-like appearance.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~B~~band (1) as claimed in one of eClaims 1 to 13, characterized in thatwherein ~~it~~ the band constitutes a gastroplasty band designed to be implanted around the stomach or the oesophagus.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~M~~ethod of manufacturing a surgical band (1) designed to be implanted in the body of a patient around a biological organ or organs, ~~consisting of~~ the band comprising a pouch or a tube for altering the flow area of said organ when ~~it~~ the organ is clamped by the band (1) in which is made an annular compression chamber (7), designed to contain a filling fluid;:

~~_____ -~~ said chamber (7) being defined, ~~on the one hand~~, by an internal wall (8A) designed to be in contact with the organ being clamped and, ~~on the other hand~~, a dorsal wall (8B),

~~_____ -~~ said method characterized in that it includescomprising

~~(a)~~ ~~a step for~~ making the bead intended to form the dorsal wall (8B); said bead having an inner face (12) situated opposite the chamber (7), and

~~(b)~~ ~~as well as a step for~~ creating said interior surface (12), with at least one longitudinal slot (13) for influencing the deformation of the internal wall (8A) with a view to limiting the presence of surface irregularities in the area of the internal wall (8A), when the strip (2) forms a closed loop.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~ethod of eClaim 15, characterized in thatwherein the internal wall (8A) ~~consists of~~comprises a membrane.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~ethod as claimed in of eClaim 15 or 16, characterized in that wherein the chamber (7) is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing filling fluid.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~M~~ethod as claimed in one of eClaims 15 to 17, characterized in thatwherein the chamber (7), the internal (8A) and dorsal (8B) walls, as well as said at least one slot (13) are produced by a single operation of injecting a single elastomer material into a mold.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The Mmethod as claimed in one of eClaims 15 to 18, characterized in that wherein if the method is used to consists of a method of manufacturing manufacture a gastroplasty band (1) designed to be implanted around the stomach or the oesophagus.~~

20. (New) The band of Claim 2, wherein the chamber is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing said filling fluid.

21. (New) The method of Claim 16, wherein the chamber is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing filling fluid.